

BRIEFING NOTES

16 February 1963

SOVIET FORCES IN CUBA

Personnel

I. From a few hundred technicians in the summer of 1962, the Soviet military presence in Cuba has grown to include regular troops manning the tanks and other weapons of mobile army groups, radar and missile specialists in charge of an extensive air defense system, and a large number of communications, air force, naval, and other personnel.

A. Although over 5,000 troops associated with the offensive missile systems have left, we believe, about 17,000 Soviet military personnel remain.

1. These troops operate equipment which the Cubans are not yet able to operate or which the Soviets do not intend to give to Cuba.

2. They are a tangible expression of Soviet concern for the preservation of a Communist state in Cuba.

a. They help defend Castro regime against internal attack.

- b. They may also serve as brake on Castro adventurism.
- 3. There are no indications of major Soviet troop withdrawals from Cuba, either planned or in train, although some replacement and rotation of personnel may be taking place.

Air Defense System

II. To defend their MRBMs and IRBMs, the Soviets planned and largely achieved before the missile withdrawals an integrated air defense system employing both surface-to-air (SAM) missiles and jet fighters

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A. Efforts to improve the SAM system continue.

1. Since the withdrawal of the MRBM and IRBM units, three SAM sites have been involved in major relocations. In each case, the SAM site was moved away from the coast and closer to an important military objective.
2. A new SAM site is nearing completion at Managua, southeast of Havana. This may indicate that an existing SAM site near the coast in the same general area will shortly be moved.
3. DETAILS:
  - a. 24 operational SAM sites, each with 6 launchers and approximately 20 missiles. Total SAM missiles--approximately 500.

b. SA-2 missile (Guideline) has an estimated range of 25-30 n.m. with a 500-lb. HE warhead. The SA-2 is considered effective against aircraft operating between 3,000 and 80,000 feet, with limited effectiveness down to 2,500 feet and up to 100,000 feet.

B. To supplement surface-to-air missiles, the Soviets have brought in over 100 MIG fighters.

1. Of these, 42 are MIG-21 (Fishbed) aircraft, [redacted]  
[redacted]

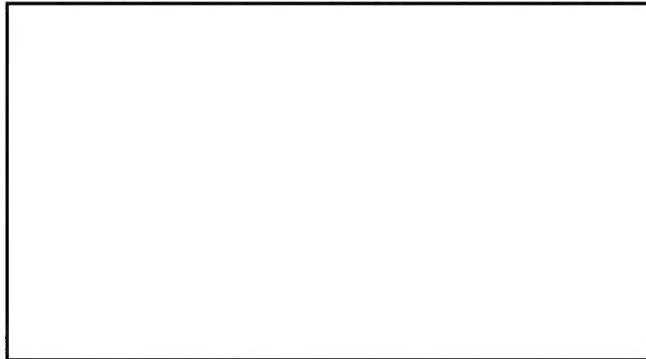
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a. The MIG-21 is a highspeed (Mach 2) aircraft which can be used both for ground support and air defense. It has a combat radius of 350 n.m. Its armament includes air-to-air missiles with a 6-mile range.

b. The MIG-21 aircraft probably is capable of carrying nuclear weapons. [redacted]

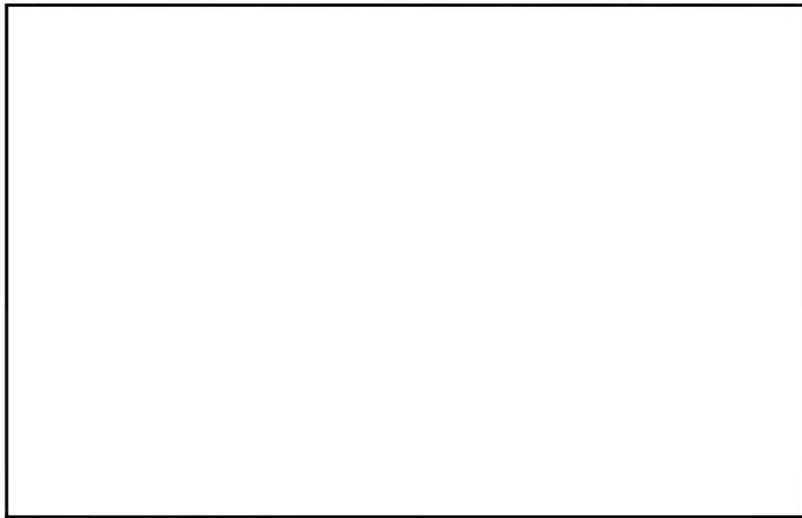
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c. If a nuclear weapon was attached to this aircraft, its radius of action would be seriously restricted, to about 200 nautical miles and then only under visual flight conditions.



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Cruise Missiles

III. Although the Soviets brought in approximately 150 coastal defense missiles during the build-up, they have thus far established only 4 operational sites.

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3. The coastal defense missile observed in Cuba is a surface-launched version of the AS-1 air-to-surface, anti-shipping

missile. In this version, it has an estimated range of 30 to 40 nautical miles, with a 2,200-pound conventional warhead.

**Soviet Armored Groups**

IV. In late August and early September, the Soviets established mobile armored groups at camps in the general vicinity of the offensive missile sites. These units were probably meant to provide local defense for these sites in event of US invasion or guerrilla sabotage attempts.

A. Each encampment--at Remedios, Santiago de las Vegas, Artemisa, and Holguin--contains over 1,000 officers and men and their organic equipment.

1. The four groups have 140 medium tanks and 16 amphibious tanks, as well as assault guns, mortars, and infantry rocket launchers.
2. There are about 21-27 FROG tactical rockets, an anti-personnel weapon with a range of about 50,000 yards.
3. The Soviet mobile armored groups are also equipped with 30 armored scout cars carrying SNAPPER wire-guided anti-tank rockets.

Missile Patrol Boats

V. To complement the coastal defense capabilities of the cruise missiles, the Soviets brought in 12 KOMAR guided-missile patrol boats.



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B. DETAILS:

1. The boat is a Soviet P-6 motor torpedo boat hull modified to carry two missile launchers. It has a top speed of 43 knots with maximum range of 650 n.m. at 20 knots.
2. The missile has a range of 10-15 nautical miles (limited by radar line-of-sight) and carries a conventional warhead of about 2,000 pounds.
3. All 12 KOMAR's are now in Mariel-Havana area, although 4 have operated out of Banes at times in the past.

ANNEX ASOVIET MILITARY EQUIPMENT IN CUBA

	<u>1 July 1962</u>	<u>1 November 1962</u>	<u>1 February 1963</u>
MRBMs	0	42	0
Tanks	About 160	About 395	About 395
Field artillery and	770	1,320	1,320
AT guns			
AAA guns	560	710	710
FROG rockets	0	21-27	21-27
SAM sites	0	24	24
SAM missiles	0	500	500
Cruise-missile sites	0	4	4
Cruise missiles	0	About 150	About 150
Air defense radars	0	About 160	About 200
Jet fighters	60-62	103-108	103-108
Jet light bombers	0	42	0
Helicopters	24	About 70	About 100
KOMAR cruise-missile	0	12	12
boats			